

Minutes of Meeting
Riverview Park Community Association
Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2010
Dempsey Community Centre (19:00-21:00)

Present: Bruce Aho, Karin Keyes Endemann, Chris Mark, Carole Moul, Janina Nickus,
(Total 5)

Absent: Nazish Ahmad, François Allard, Nadine Chamorel, Kris Nanda, Peter
Schmolka, Sue Vye (Total 6)

Notes: (1) *Secretary is to advise Dempsey Community Centre when will not be using their facility for booked meetings.*
(2) *We do not have quorum for tonight's meeting since we need at least 50% (½) of board members to be present to have quorum.*

Executive Meeting

1. Karin called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
2. Approval of agenda.
3. Approval of June 16, 2010, meeting minutes deferred as no quorum.

4. Committee reports

(i) Communications –Karin mentioned there were quite few hits our site lately and that it is important that we keep the content up to day and current

(ii) Planning and Development (P & D) (Report/article emailed by Kris Nanda)

1. **Bus Garage Update** - The expanded OC Transpo bus storage and repair facility on Industrial Avenue will open on September 13, 2010. Following a public outcry earlier this year from the community and considerable lobbying by the RPCA about the anticipated congestion and noise from hundreds of new bus trips per day along Industrial, the City and OC Transpo decided to move the main entrance and exit to Belfast Road. The City and OC Transpo believe that Belfast Road would serve as a better route and is currently re-designing access points to the bus facility.

The new access point from Belfast Road will eliminate westbound morning bus traffic on Industrial. The 40 buses travelling eastbound in the morning will continue to turn left out of the eastern entrance of the site onto Industrial eastbound travelling to Innes Road. All returning buses will access the site from Belfast Road. The new access point also eliminates bus traffic to and from Hurdman Station along Industrial. Accessing the garage from Belfast Road will mean that OC Transpo will no longer need the previously proposed western right turn access onto Industrial and the new design will not show the western right turn access. The process to design and build the new access point involves public consultation and an environmental assessment (EA). As a result, construction is scheduled to be completed and busses are expected to be using the new access route only by September 2011. Until then, buses entering and exiting the garage facility will use Industrial Avenue as a temporary measure.

The improved access for the bus facility resulted from an agreement for a land exchange with a local landowner to provide the new bus garage with access onto Belfast Road. In light of the increasing public concern about bus traffic on Industrial with the resulting noise, traffic and air quality issues and given that this option could optimize both the new and existing facility, an agreement was reached. This new access point presents excellent value to address community concerns and reduces OC Transpo

operating costs by bringing the two bus facilities (new on Industrial and existing on St. Laurent), into closer proximity.

2. **Perley Hospital Proposal** - The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre Board is considering constructing a 139-unit seniors supportive housing residence, which would be located on the Perley Hospital grounds. Design work is continuing. The RPCA is a participant on the Community Liaison Committee, which met in May 2010 and is scheduled to meet again later this fall.

A 5-storey residence will be connected to the current health centre at the main entrance and a second 3-storey residence will be located adjacent to Russell Road.

3. **Cancer Foundation "Wellspring" House** - Ground was broken in June 2010 for the new Ontario Regional Cancer Foundation facility and offices near the corner of Alta Vista Drive and Caledon Street, adjacent to the Cancer Survivors Park, and construction is well underway. The 7,200-square foot facility, "Wellspring Ottawa," is designed to provide a wide range of supportive outpatient services to local cancer patients and their caregivers and office space for between 20-25 Cancer Foundation staff. The project is scheduled for completion in Spring 2011.

Concerns had been raised that expanding the parking lot to 34 spaces would encroach on parkland that the City acquired from the NCC in 2004 as part of a land exchange subject to a restrictive covenant that only permitted usage for park and open space purposes. In response, City staff reported that "the NCC indicated that notwithstanding the breach of the covenant the proposed development involving part of the parkland was acceptable due to the overall merit of the project and the fact that the development will lead to increased use of the park."

4. **Pedestrian and Cycling Routes** - The Riverview Park community will be getting several new sidewalks this year. Installation of sidewalks on Belfast and along Acton between Station Blvd and Knox Crescent are now complete. The Industrial Ave. sidewalk, a 2010 Sidewalk/Pathway Links Program project, is currently under design. Completion of the design and tender for the construction is expected for the fall of this year with construction to be completed in 2010 (if weather permits) or early 2011. Construction of a 3 metre multi-use path (MUP) on the south side of Industrial between Riverside and Alta Vista – an area previously identified by P&D members as a candidate– is also slated for 2010.

The City of Ottawa is continuing studies for a new MUP (pedestrian/cyclist) connection between Coventry Road, near the Ottawa Stadium and the Train Transitway Station – an item first identified as a project in the mid-1990s. The City's Official Plan and Transportation Master Plan (TMP) promote increasing transit ridership through a number of mechanisms, including integrating the pedestrian and cycling networks with transit facilities such as the Train Transitway Station and with destinations such as the nearby Ottawa Stadium and offices along Coventry Road. The RPCA is taking part in the Public Consultation Group (PCG) for the project to try to have the path linked up with the future tunnel multi-use link (pedestrian/cyclist) which is planned between the Via Rail station and the Ottawa Trainyards Complex (and which could ultimately link up with paths along Industrial and Alta Vista.)

The pedestrian bridge over the Queensway between the Ottawa Stadium and Via Train Station has been selected as the preferred solution. A second public meeting was held in September 2010 and the project is scheduled to go to Transit Committee in November 2010. Additional details are available at www.ottawa.ca/train-coventry.

5. **Transitway Connection Study (Cumberland/Hospital Link)** - The Transitway Connection Study of a potential future rapid transit road between Cumberland and Riverview Park/Alta Vista continues, under the auspices of the City. The RPCA Board is involved as a stakeholder group, especially as there are still implications for Riverview Park.

The Study Team's new preferred alternative would use Terminal Avenue, with a short-dog-leg along Trainyards Drive and then heading east along Belfast before reconnecting

with a rail corridor just west of St. Laurent. However, this portion of the Rapid Transit route may not actually be built for another 10-15 years, if at all.

An EA process was held over the summer and is targeted for completion in fall 2010. City officials have confirmed that the Hospital Spur portion of the Study will be identical to Phase I of the controversial Alta Vista Transportation Corridor (AVTC) which was approved by the Province in 2007, despite an appeal by local citizen groups.

6. Alta Vista Transportation Corridor – Hospital Link -The detail design work associated with the controversial Hospital Link section of the AVTC (between Riverside Drive and the Hospital Complex) will continue at least to the end of 2010. The City was also scheduled to start undertaking some of the prerequisite utility relocation work along the corridor. The project itself requires construction to be phased over a 3-year period, with construction work currently scheduled to commence in 2011, pending funding approval. The RPCA has asked to be included in any further consultations on projects details.

In the meantime, RPCA President Karin Keyes Endemann wrote Councillor Hume seeking clarification on whether he views the Hospital Link as a stand-alone project or part of a larger overall project which would run through the green space between Conroy Road and Nicholas Street. Councillor Hume responded “the Hospital Link stands on its own and does not require any construction in any other part of the corridor to function properly. In fact, we are only constructing structures over Riverside and the Transitway which are 2 lanes wide. The only four lane configuration is under the rail link and is a result of the VIA requirement to limit train disruption - the four lane structure will be used to provide access to and from the transitway and the 2 traffic lanes coming off of Riverside Drive. Before the lanes cross Alta Vista - the buses are required to merge into 2 lanes as they proceed into the hospital complex. As well we are not proposing to bring the link around the hospital complex but rather link it to the hospital ring road at the TransAlta Plant.”

7. Other developments of interest -

- The Trainyards Inc development application for a proposed six-storey office building at **455 Terminal Avenue**, originally scheduled for completion and occupation by 2011, is presently on hold. This building is the first component of a planned overall total of 1.1 million in square feet of office space in the Trainyards Complex which is expected to be built over the next five years. Concerns have been raised about whether the number of parking spaces may be too high for this particular building and would lead to unnecessary increase in vehicular congestion. It is hoped that as more Trainyards office space becomes available – including a federal office building that is reportedly being proposed for the north side of Terminal Avenue - site designs will include fewer parking spaces and will place more emphasis on increased public transit service and access to the Transitway (e.g. via the future tunnel link between the Trainyards and Via Rail station which in turn would link to the Train Transitway station.). More information on plans for the Trainyards is available at www.ottawatrainyards.com.
- The **Downtown Ottawa Transit Tunnel (DOTT)** assessment process is also of interest to the RPCA as Industrial Avenue is listed as a possible alternate transit detour for OC Transpo buses while the Transitway is being converted to a Light Rail Train (LRT) route. The RPCA has been added to the PCG for the DOTT environmental assessment process which will begin later this year.
- The application for a three-storey low-rise (9.7 metre high) apartment dwelling at **604 Pullen Avenue** is on hold. The comment period has closed for this proposed dwelling with six parking spaces located at the rear of the building and a circular driveway for loading at the front. Landscaping will be provided on all sides of the site. The existing semi-detached bungalow dwelling will be demolished to accommodate the new building on this site.

Karin, Cris Mark and representatives from 710 Coronation took a tour of the new OC

Transpo bus garage facility on Industrial Avenue. The City will conduct sound/noise measurements in the area in late August to obtain baselines before the facility/buses are operational. The City will measure noise levels again after the facility is open to determine what, if anything, needs to be done to mitigate the impact on our community.

(iii) Parks, Recreation and Environment

Balena Rink- Chris Khoury (Cheryl's spouse) has volunteered to be Balena rink coordinator for the upcoming rink season.

Participation in Peter Hume's corn roast (membership table, etc.). As the event is so close to the municipal election the RPCA Board members will not be volunteering/be present as, however, Board members can volunteer as individuals/private citizens. The RPCA donated \$500 to support the event. This is in line with what we have done in past years.

Fall clean up scheduled for Oct. 2, 2010. Perhaps Trinity Church group could help with this. Chris to email Karin details/information on the clean up. If the committee can get 500 bulbs donated to them again, we will plant more daffodils in the Cancer Survivor Park this fall. Chris made a motion to that we spend \$63.24 to pay for four bags of woodchips to top up mulch in garden around Ellen (Lanthier's) bench in Balena Park; motion seconded by Carole. The committee is looking into a new venue for next years Fall Social since Boofs Restaurant is no longer in business. Plans for the upgraded Balena park center have been received and comments from the Board members are requested. It was note that the RPCA would like to have space for the an office and for a meeting room.

5. Treasurer's Report – Bruce advised the books and records are in order for the audit. John Neale will be performing the audit for the upcoming AGM. The balance in our accounts per the latest bank statement is as follows: CIBC – \$0.00 (bank account closed) BMO - \$17,960.00

6. Priority Setting

We discussed the RPCA priorities for 2010-11. Consensus was reached that we were comfortable with last year's general priorities, with a few specific modifications. Overall the 2010-11 RPCA priorities will be

- 1) Communication- increase communication/links/awareness with local schools, organizations, augment use of our website;
- 2) Parks & Recreation (Fun)- winter carnival; adopt-a-park, skating rinks
- 3) Planning & Development – ongoing monitoring & input on development in our area; mitigation of the impact of the bus garage
- 4) New Community Centre- continue work to upgrade/expand the facility at Balena
- 5) Safety – support Neighbourhood Watch; make area more pedestrian & cycling friendly; traffic issues; sidewalks
- 6) Membership- have special breaks/discounts for members (possible discount at local businesses)

We also intend hold the second Holiday Carole sing and our first community garage sale Finally we will be working to ensure involvement with our city councillor.

7. AGM and All Candidates Meeting

As of Sept. 7, six candidates [4 mayoral and all 4 running as councillors in Alta Vista ward (# 18)] have confirmed attendance at the AGM/all candidates meeting on October 13, 2010. We will need to advertize for new RPCA board members and the AGM in the

paper(s) and on our blog – action Karin

We will need to prepare a slate of candidates for the Board, all Board members are asked to recruit 2 new candidates. For the AGM we will need the following:

- post information about the event on our blog
- slate of candidates listed on flip chart paper
- agendas (30 copies)
- treasurer' report (30 copies) – Bruce
- AGM previous minutes (30 copies) - Janina
- attendees sign up sheet (name, address, phone #, email address) - Janina
- bring any leftover RPCA flyers /website flyer to AGM (Janina, others)
- water/Tim Bits Carole
- need a chairperson to run/manage the RPCA business - suggested Louis Comerton or Orrin Clayton for this
- Karin will chair/run the all candidates session

Bruce made a motion to have water (50 bottles) and Tim Bits at the AGM for refreshments; seconded by Chris. Chris mentioned that she might have some leftover bottled water from previous RPCA events.

Discussed agenda for AGM that Karin had prepared and circulated (see attached.)
The all candidates discussion will be held during the first hour of evening (7-8); next hour will be for RPCA business.

As part of her President's report, Karin will list our accomplishments: Cancer Survivor Park, daffodil planting, sod turning re Wellness Centre, worked with Dale/Caledon residents on issues re the Wellness Centre, liaising with Neighbourhood Watch, OC Transpo bus garage mitigation, Christmas carol singing in December, running our 2 ice rinks, adopt-a-park/ park clean ups (6 in our area) including clean-up of Coronation with Blair Court residents, corn roast, fall social at Boofs, launched our website.

Action Item; Chris and Kris? to send Karin 5 to 6 items (about 1 sentence each) that Parks, Recreation & Environment committee and Planning & Development accomplished/did in 2009-10.

8. New Business - none

7. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at about 8:30 p.m.

Next board meeting – Nov. 10, 2010, 7 p.m. at Dempsey Community Centre

AGM - Wednesday, October 13, 2010; 7 p.m. at Riverview Alternative School gym, 260 Knox St.

*Minutes prepared by Janina Nickus, RPCA secretary
Oct. 4, 2010*